

THE JACOB JOURNAL

A NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB

OCTOBER 1997

QUALIFICATIONS NOT QUOTAS

On November 5, 1996, California voters approved Proposition 209. It was an historic measure which stated:

“The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.”

As an early supporter of Proposition 209, along with almost 63% of San Diegans, it was my hope that the will of the people would be fulfilled. Unfortunately, when Governor Pete Wilson and California Attorney General Dan Lungren tried to do just that, a District Court Judge in the San Francisco Bay area blocked it.

What happened next is a long and twisted tale of legal wrangling. But, on August 28, 1997, the battle finally came to an end — Proposition 209 was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court denied a request for a stay by the challengers. We the people won and our will shall be done!

Immediately after California voters approved Proposition 209, at my request the San Diego County Board of Supervisors took action to implement it. At the same time and of equal importance, the Board directed that a plan be

developed to assure that equal opportunity would be the rule, not the exception, in San Diego County. The reason was more than just to fulfill the will of the voters — more than just to comply with the law. It was because eliminating discrimination, preferential treatment, and quotas is the right thing to do. As a result, San Diego County became one of the first municipalities to officially move to implement Proposition 209. Who would have thought then that this legal battle would end up in an 11 month delay?

***“...eliminating
discrimination, preferential
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right thing to do.”***

--Dianne Jacob

Notwithstanding, I'm pleased to announce that on September 30, 1997, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to bring County government in full compliance with Proposition 209. We leveled the playing field! Specifically, we repealed the County's Affirmative Action

Program, amended contracting procedures, and we will have a new “Diversity Plan” before the end of the year.

The “Diversity Plan” will replace quotas and provide for equal opportunity. It will assure that the doors are open to all who wish to apply for a job or bid on a contract and there will be fair competition based on qualifications; not race, ethnicity, or gender. By hiring or contracting with the best and most qualified person, it assures that the public will receive the very best service from County government.

At long last equal opportunity will be the rule, not the exception, in San Diego County. And, the doors which were once closed to those who did not fit specific race or gender slots will be opened once again — opened without regard to race or gender. People will be hired or rewarded a contract based on qualifications, not quotas.

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*Supervisor Dianne Jacob
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JACOB RE-OPENS DISTRICT OFFICE

East County Residents Join Celebration

El Cajon, CA — More than a hundred East County residents turned out on Thursday, September 25, to help Supervisor Dianne Jacob and her staff celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of the East County District Office. The celebration was an excellent opportunity for the community to get re-acquainted with the office, meet Jacob's staff, and visit informally with the Supervisor.

The Grand Re-Opening Celebration signals Jacob's commitment to meet the widespread demand to regularly staff the district office. "Maintaining regular hours at the district office will bring County government closer to the people. This is just one more way to improve customer service to the taxpayers," said Jacob. "I am pleased that so many people joined me to help celebrate, and I look forward to seeing them and others at the District Office in the future."

The East County District Office is located at 250 East Main Street, Suite I-69, in the East County Regional Center. The office may be accessed directly by stair from the parking lot, or by elevator through the main courthouse entrance. **The East County District Office will be open every Wednesday and Thursday from 9 AM to 5 PM.** For more information, or for an appointment, the public may call any of the following numbers: (619) 531-5522 (619) 441-4327, or (800) 852-7322.

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JACOB: MT. HELIX CROSS STAYS

Urges Lungren To Help Save Mt. Helix Landmark

In response to a federal judge's order that California Attorney General Dan Lungren be added as a party to a lawsuit involving the Mount Helix Cross, Supervisor Dianne Jacob recently sent a letter to Lungren urging him to agree that the Cross should remain where it has stood atop Mount Helix since the 1920's. The letter speaks for itself:

Dear Attorney General Lungren:

As you may know by now, a federal judge has ordered that the Attorney General be added as a party to a lawsuit involving the Mount Helix Cross. I hope you will agree with me that the Cross means many different things to many different people throughout San Diego County, and that it should remain where it has stood since the 1920's.

The Mount Helix Cross was intended for the community of San Diego to enjoy forever. Over the years, people from all over San Diego County have attended sunrise services, weddings, musicals, graduations and plays atop Mount Helix. It is an historic landmark in East County and holds many memories. In fact, the Cross was designated a County historical site in January of 1990, and a State Point of Historical Interest in August, 1991.

The Cross means many different things to different people. To some, it is a survey marker, or a point of historical pride. To others, it is a religious symbol, or a symbol of peace. The fact is, the Mount Helix Cross has become the most widely-recognized landmark in East County—perhaps all of San Diego County!

In 1929, 3.2 acres atop Mount Helix, located in La Mesa, California, was deeded to the County of San Diego with an endowment of \$30,000 to pay for continued maintenance of the Park. Atop Mount Helix is a public park, consisting of an open-air amphitheater, and a Cross—all dedicated by the Yawkey family, of La Mesa, in remembrance of their mother.

In 1991, the federal judge found that the presence of this Cross on public property violated the "no-preference" clause of the California Constitution. In response, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors deeded the Cross, and the land underneath it, to the San Diego Historical Society. The plaintiff, who is represented by the ACLU, now argues that the transfer itself was a violation of the California Constitution.

I am committed to do everything in my power to ensure that the Mount Helix Cross is never removed and that it remains an East County landmark. I trust you will agree with me.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Mount Helix Cross will forever stand atop Mount Helix! Thank you for your attention to this most critical issue.

Sincerely,

Dianne Jacob

ROUND-UP

News from Around the County

Prohibition of Clean Needle Exchange

NEP's, or Needle Exchange Programs, are touted as a way to prevent AIDS transmission. However, these programs, which allow intravenous drug users to turn in used meth, cocaine, and heroin needles for clean ones, condone drug use. Of course, AIDS is a terrible disease...but so is addiction. Supervisors Jacob and Horn authored a proposal, which passed unanimously, to outlaw NEP's. The Board agreed it is essential to eliminate drug use, not find a cleaner or safer way to inject drugs!

Zero-Based Budgeting for Animal Control

The Board of Supervisors in budget deliberations earlier this year, directed the CAO to zero-base the Department of Animal Control – a department with one of the highest overhead rates and excessive customer service complaints! On October 7, 1997, the Board approved a new plan for Animal Control which cuts management bureaucracy by 35%, and increases front-line animal control officers by 56%. The net result is greater fiscal accountability, increased customer service, and savings to the taxpayers of \$144,000 every year!

Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. So, if you like what you've read, fill out the form below and mail it back to us at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101 or fax it to us at (619) 696-7253. We'll put you on our mailing list to get The Jacob Journal regularly!

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We hope to hear from you soon!

October 97

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